

New Boston Police Department

2012 was a year of change for the New Boston Police Department as we began the year with some serious challenges ahead. In 2011, the department was staffed by 6 Full-Time and 2 Part-Time Officers, supported by 2 Administrative positions. With the turn of 2012, we had just 1 Full Time Officer remaining, supported by 3 Part-Time Officers and our Administrative Assistant.

My first priority in taking over the department was to restore our staffing levels. The process began in March as I was appointed as your new Chief and Officer Eric Cartier came to us from the Allentown Police Department. In May, we hired Kathleen MacDonald to fill the position of part-time Records Clerk. In July, Daniel Aiken was hired as our Full-Time Sergeant, coming to us from the Weare Police Department and Katherine Fiore was hired as an Officer from the Hooksett Police Department. In August, we filled our final full time position with Officer David Murray, who came to us from the Boston, Massachusetts Police Department. Each Officer was previously certified, allowing the department to be fully staffed in just five months. In late August, we also hired Jennifer Watson to fill a per-diem part-time Officer position. Officer Watson successfully completed her academy training in December finishing second out of fifty-four recruits academically. She is currently completing her department field training.

While progressing through the staffing and training areas, my second priority was to increase our services and presence in town. Despite being understaffed, we incrementally increased our patrol coverage from 16 hours in March to 24 hours on December 9th, 2012. With this milestone reached, our agency now provides Police services 24 hours every day for the first time in its history. To further improve our presence in town we increased our motor vehicle activity. We finished the year with an increase of 1165 stops. As a result of these changes, we were able to reduce the number of Burglaries, Thefts, and reported Criminal Incidents during 2012. (*See attached statistics*)

With the support of the Board of Selectmen, we established a Highway Safety Committee, drafted a Pay and Grade system, and re-established a police detail revolving account. The detail account, funded by private companies requesting extra Police services (such as traffic control) will help offset the future costs related to our cruisers. The Pay & Grade scale was also a significant improvement as it establishes a clearly defined system of pay steps which should aid in retaining officers. The Highway Safety Committee will allow the Town to address safety and/or road concerns while making the town eligible for State Highway Safety grants.

In an effort to further enhance our services, we restored partnerships with Crispin's House, NIXLE (an online notification system), and "A Child is Missing". "A Child is Missing" is a service that can place calls to a selected area in just minutes in the event of a lost child or disabled adult. Crispin's House offers many services to include "Diversion" which is a Juvenile 1st time offender program. We also resumed our Neighborhood Watch program and look to grow this program in 2013.

We made strides organizationally by completing a significant records software upgrade and two critical security improvements to our facility. We also addressed the lingering issue of unlicensed dogs. As a reminder, all dog registrations are due by April 30th. These licenses are an important tool in assisting the department in locating owners when pets become an "escapee". The registrations also provide the Town with important rabies vaccination information.

While these changes have been challenging for the department they can also bring about some concerns from the community. It is important for you, our community members, to know that we are partnered with you to provide the best services possible. In order to achieve this goal we must have your input. Whether it is a suggestion or concern, I value this input as we continue to improve the services we offer.

As a reminder, some of the services we offer to our community are:

Vacant House Checks: If you plan to be away from your home for any length of time, contact the department to provide relevant information and we will check your property while you are away

Special House Checks Planning an evening or weekend away and leaving your teenagers home? Contact the department to provide the relevant information and we will check on your family during the evening.

Fingerprints: If you are a New Boston resident requiring fingerprints for any reason, we offer this service at no charge. (There is a small fee for non-residents)

Lockouts If you find yourself locked out of your home or vehicle, after completing a damage waiver, we will attempt to gain entry with specialized tools

Directed Patrols Concerned about suspicious activity or speeding cars, we will patrol at specific times and areas based upon your request.

VIN Verifications Registering a car and need your VIN verified? We will come to your home to complete the required form.

I sincerely would like to thank you all for the wonderful support in 2012 and I look forward to continuing our progress in 2013.

Respectfully,

James Brace
Chief of Police